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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,640	09/15/2003	Burke T. Barrett	1000.025CON	8003
41332	7590	08/06/2007	EXAMINER	
CYBERONICS, INC.			GETZOW, SCOTT M	
LEGAL DEPARTMENT, 6TH FLOOR			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
100 CYBERONICS BOULEVARD			3762	
HOUSTON, TX 77058				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/06/2007		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/661,640	BARRETT ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	/Scott M. Getzow/	3762	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### **Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### **Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 22-24 and 26-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 22-24,26-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### **Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### **Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### **Attachment(s)**

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_.

*Double Patenting*

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 22-24,26-40 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,622,038. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the method claims of the above patent encompass the structural aspects of the present application claims.

3. Claims 22-24,26-40 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 22-31 of copending Application No. 10/661,641. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the present application are considered to be obvious over the structure set forth in the '641 application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

4. Claims 22,23,24,26,29-35,37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Borkan (6,662,053).

Col. 2:54 of Borkan teaches that the device can be either implanted or external.

Col. 3:48 teaches that it is old and well known in the art that individual nerves can be stimulated. The specific functional language in the above claims is considered to be able to be performed by the structure of the Borkan device.

5. Claims 22-24,26,30-35,37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barreras et al (5,941,906).

The patent to Barreras is considered to encompass all of the structure of the above claims. Col. 6 teaches synchronous or asynchronous stimulation. Col. 11 teaches use to treat tremors due to Parkinson's disease. The specific functional language in the above claims is considered to be able to be performed by the structure of the Barreras device.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

6. Claims 27,28,36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borkan (6,662,053) in view of Zabara (5,025,807).

Zabara teaches sensing body movement, as well as the ability of the patient to control stimulation, and an external pulse generator with implanted electrodes. All of these features are commonly used in the art to enable better treatment of the patient, and thus would have been obvious to use with the device of Borkan.

7. Claims 27,28,36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barreras et al (5,941,906) in view of Zabara (5,025,807).

Zabara teaches sensing body movement, as well as the ability of the patient to control stimulation, and an external pulse generator with implanted electrodes. All of these features are commonly used in the art to enable better treatment of the patient, and thus would have been obvious to use with the device of Barreras.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Scott M. Getzow/ whose telephone number is (571) 272-4946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Scott M. Getzow/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3762

SMG